

GOOD-NIGHT.

The flowers for sleep are slumber,
The bird in his nest,
The daylight is all hidden
With darkness in the west.

And, hark! the cricket is singing
His love-song to the skies,
Where all the stars are waiting
To see you close your eyes.

They wish you all good slumber,
They wish you all good night,
They'll tell the sun to come you
When once again 'tis light.

And while you sleep, the roses
May think your absence dear,
That in the early morning
You'll find them resting here.

THE TENDENCY OF SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY.

Sir Henry Barkly, G.C.M.G., F.R.S., took the chair at the annual meeting of the Victoria (Philosophical) Institute, at Adelphi Terrace, London, in the last week in June. The Honorary Secretary, Captain F. Petrie, F.R.S., read the report, by which it appeared that the Institute, founded to investigate all questions of Philosophy and Science, and more especially any alleged to militate against the truth of Revelation—had now risen to 1,020 members, of whom about one-third were foreign, colonial and American, and new applications to join were constantly coming in. An increasing number of leading men of science had joined its ranks, and men of science, whether in its ranks or not, could operate in its work. During the session, Professor Stokes, F.R.S., Sir J. R. Bennett, Vice-President R.S., Professor Baile, F.R.S., and others, of the various theories of evolution, and it was reported that, as yet, no scientific evidence had been put forward giving countenance to the theory that man had been evolved from a lower order in animals; and Professor Vuchow had declared that there was a complete absence of any fossil type of a lower stage in the development of man, and that any positive advance in the province of prehistoric anthropology has actually removed us further from proofs of such connection, namely, with the rest of the animal kingdom. In this, Professor Barrett, the great paleontologist, has concurred, declaring that in none of his investigations had he found any one fossil species develop into another. In fact, it would seem that no scientific man had yet discovered a link between man and the ape, between the fish and frog, or between the vertebrate and the invertebrate animals; further, there was no evidence of any one species, fossil or living, of its peculiar characteristics to acquire ones belonging to other species; for instance, however similar the dog to the wolf, there was no connecting link, and among extinct species the same was the case; there was no gradual passage from one to another. Nor, the first animals that existed on the earth were by no means to be considered as inferior or degraded. Among other investigations, one into the truth of the argument from Design in Nature had been carried on, and had hitherto tended to fully confirm that doctrine. The question of the Assyrian inscriptions and the recent Babylonian researches had been under the leadership of Mr. Hornum Rassam, who, on his arrival from Nineveh, had given a full report of the extent of his new excavations, which were of the highest interest. His discovery of Sennacherib, one of the first cities mentioned in Holy Writ, was most important. Professor Delitich and others aided in the consideration of the discoveries and the inscriptions found. Two meetings had been held to consider the questions raised in Herbert Spencer's Philosophy, and Lord O'Neill and others had shown, by a careful analysis of his arguments, that a greater attention to accuracy in statement would have kept Mr. Spencer from arriving at those hasty conclusions which had made his philosophy remarkable. It was announced that the results of explorations now being carried on in Egypt would be laid before the Institute early in the winter. The discoveries were very important, especially that of the site of Sennacherib, which, like the results of the survey of Palestine, was confirmatory of the Sacred Record. The quarterly Journal, which had been published for sixteen years, was now issued free to all members and associates, whether at home or abroad. Several interesting speeches having been made, the members and their friends adjourned to the Museum, where refreshments were served.

CARSON FOOTPRINTS.

Through the kindness of Frank Bell, Warden of the Carson Prison, Professor Davidson has been enabled to lay out a plan for perpetuating some of the finer impressions in clay and sand-stone strata which exhibit the Carson footprints. There is no doubt that in a few seasons many of the more delicate markings and tests of the weather and the repeated taking of casts, etc., while Professor Davidson marked out a line forty-six feet in length, embracing the best preserved series of foot tracks, claimed by some to belong to the giant sloth, and by others to some large quadruped like a bear, and by others to the pre-historic man, and the inter-marking of the series with the smooth tracks at the entrance to the tunnel. Another line of forty feet has been marked, embracing the best series of the mammoth tracks from their impression to the ripple-worked substratum of blue sand-stone to the sandy layers five inches deep in the mouth of the second tunnel. From casts of these tracks, several great slabs will be produced, representing the present condition of the footprints. Mr. Gibbs has brought down small slabs exhibiting the rain marks, ripple marks, etc., and also specimens of the finest of other animals' tracks. Professor Davidson discovered a series of footprints which appear to be new, and were unknown to Professor W. P. Blake, who joined in all the examinations and work, and who will make a report to the academy and to the American and British associations for the advancement of science.

In this connection it is interesting to note that Dr. Harkness, who is the father of the theory that the Carson footprints belong to pre-historic man, has discovered in another locality, some distance from the Carson State Prison quarry, a series of similar footprints, which are even better described than those in the Carson sandstone. They have the additional advantage of being covered by a stratum only about one foot thick, which is easily removed. A large area of the sandstone containing these impressions has been stripped. The impressions embrace the indistinct footprints of the wolf, deer and mammoth, as well as the tracks of the creature whose identity the scientists have not yet settled to each other's satisfaction. Professor Harkness, it is understood, claims the new discovery establishes beyond question the correctness of his theory that the footprints which have caused so much controversy were made by the sandaled foot of man, for they do not, he says, present a suggestion of a claw mark, which he holds would certainly be the case had the footprints been made by a bear or by a giant sloth. In the footprints of the deer the toes are so well defined that one can readily determine as belonging to an old animal. The impression of the claws in the wolf's track is perfect. The new district is to be thoroughly explored, and for that purpose Dr. Harkness has taken steps to get possession of the land.

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OLIVE CULTURE IN AMERICA.

In the August Century, Mrs. Bianciardi's illustrated article, "Under the Olives," contains, besides an interesting account of the method of cultivating it in Europe, the following regarding olive culture as an American industry: "The olive has lately acquired for Americans a new and practical interest, from the discovery that it can be easily and profitably grown in California. Students of California have been accustomed to consider a small bottle of 'Mission oil' for their salad as a treasure, for it far surpasses in purity and sweetness any imported oil. But it is only within a few years that private owners of land in Southern California have seriously considered the question whether olive cultivation could be made a paying enterprise. So many possibilities cling to the broad lands and rich soil of the Golden State, that it is not wonderful if some of them have been overlooked. And, though experiments in olive growing have been made on a small scale with good success during the last twenty years, popular interest is only now beginning to be awakened. In the first place, there was the drawback, peculiarly great to the American temperament, of the slowness of growth and irregular productiveness of the olive in Europe. The old Italian saying is, 'Plant a vineyard for yourself, an orange grove for your children, and an olive orchard for your grandchildren.' As a people, we are not fond of looking far into the future; and, in many cases, judging from ourselves, we are not at all sure that our grandchildren will wish to live where we do. But the olive is good enough to adapt itself to the rapidity of American demands. It matures much earlier than in Europe, and bears off more plentifully. The system of propagation from cuttings, as far as can be judged at present, gives, in our rich soil, robust trees; and there is no need to employ the slow process of raising them from the seed. Five years are surely not long to wait for a fruit crop; and after that time, according to the best California authorities, the tree will yield fruit, and in many cases an annual harvest. At a late meeting of the State Horticultural Society in San Francisco it was stated that one olive farm yielded \$2,200 (?) to the acre. These trees bear every year, and were situated on adobe hillside, the bottom lands being found, as in Italy, less favorable to the fruit. The variety was the 'Mission olive,' which has not been identified with any of the varieties now cultivated in Europe. The olive was introduced into Southern America in 1560, by Antonio Ribera; but the California trees sprang from seeds sent from San Blas in Mexico by Don Joseph de Galvez with his expedition to rediscover the port of Monterey.

MALARIA IN RELATION TO WATER.

The Sanitary Engineer contains a communication from Colonel G. H. Mendell, in which the writer states that malaria prevails over the whole of the great valley of California, often in its most violent form—that it exists in uplands remote from marshy districts, and is often absent from districts adjacent to those where it abounds. He then goes on: "Some years ago, while engaged in a study of irrigation, then being in California, I was led to notice the level of standing water in wells, in reference to which there is a great difference in our interior plains. I soon noticed that shallow wells and malaria were frequent companions. Where the wells were seventy feet (or thereabouts) deep there was freedom from malaria. Having noticed these coincidences, I afterwards investigated their cause, and found a great many cases of inquiries of farmers with whom I had conversed. In one or two cases of exceptional malarial districts in the foothills, which are generally free from this pest, I found the water in the wells near the surface. I do not recall a single instance of shallow wells where the family were free from fevers, always intermittent, I believe. I therefore connect the presence of water near the surface of the soil with the existence of malaria. Whether it is due to the mere presence or to the fact that it is drunk, or to both, I am unable to say." The statement of Colonel Mendell is calculated to give a very erroneous idea of the character and extent of malarial disease in California. In the first place, the climate of the ocean slope extending the entire length of the State, and varying from five to twenty or thirty miles in width, is almost exempt from malaria. This region embraces the metropolis of San Francisco and many other of the most populous localities. The "great valley" probably refers to the valleys of the Sacramento and San Joaquin. There are many parts of these valleys not particularly malarious. Besides, the general character of malarial disease is not violent, but rather chronic. Cases often reach an extreme condition by repeated relapses, and are frequently fatal. As to the influence of water near the surface, as shown by shallow wells, we have our doubts. On the occasional Alameda cases, which are frequently fatal, the water is shallow, there is scarcely any well-marked malarial disease; and the same may be said of many other localities. Irrigation does not appear so conducive to malaria as the common belief assumes. In the great valley of San Bernardino, where cultivation is entirely dependent on irrigation, malaria exists only in a few localities. We may add that the term malaria is so vague, and the word malarial is so frequently used, that it is questionable whether a large proportion of disease attributed to that cause is really due to malaria. Malaria is a capacious and convenient receptacle for many dubious ailments. Every physician who has had any experience in the treatment of malarial conditions and its morbid conditions and therapeutic applications of quinine.

A FROG STORY.—The Wheatland (Yuba county) Graphic furnishes the following:

Some months ago Dr. Melton was called to see a man who told a tale of misery and grief. The man, who was a stranger, complained particularly of great distress in his stomach, and told the doctor that the distress had existed for some time and that he had consulted a spiritualist, and had been told that he had swallowed a frog. The doctor after a critical examination, found that he was suffering from an aggravated attack of dyspepsia and hypochondria, and tried to convince him that the spiritualist was lying to no purpose. After two or three visits the doctor concluded to humor her, and after a pretended examination told her he was sure the frog had taken up its abode in her stomach, but he would soon remedy the trouble. Procuring a large frog from one of the Chinese gardens, on his next visit he administered an emetic to his patient, and while it was doing its work, managed to slip the frog into the basin unobserved by her. On seeing the frog in the basin the lady was much relieved, and was high in her praise of the doctor. But a fearful thought came to her in the midst of her joy. What if the frog had left some little cure behind it? Explaining herself, she shuddered with fear at the idea. The doctor was equal to the occasion. Picking up the frog, he eyed it closely for a while, and replied: "No fear, madam, it is not that kind of a frog."

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Cases often reach an extreme condition by
repeated relapses, and are frequently fatal.
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